

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method in a data processing system for remotely recovering a client computer system's primary password, said primary password being required prior to said client computer system being accessible by a user, said client computer system being coupled to a server computer system utilizing a network, said method comprising the steps of:

prior to said client computer system completing a boot process:

prompting a user to enter said primary password; and

providing an interrogative password method in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said primary password being recoverable from said server computer system by said client computer system utilizing said interrogative password method prior to said client computer system completing said boot process;

providing an interrogative password method, including a question and correct answer pair;

recovering said primary password from said server computer system in response to a successful completion of said interrogative method;

displaying said question included within said interrogative method utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password;

prompting a user to enter an answer to said question, wherein an entry of said correct answer will successfully complete said interrogative method;

establishing a unique client identifier;

storing said question and said correct answer together with said unique client identifier in said server computer system;

transmitting a request for said question utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said request including said unique client identifier; and

transmitting said question utilizing said server computer system in response to a receipt of said request.

Claims 2-6 (canceled)

7. (original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a proposed answer to said question utilizing said client computer system;  
determining whether said proposed answer is said correct answer utilizing said server computer system.

8. (original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of prior to executing said interrogative password method, permitting a user to initially supply said question and correct answer pair.

9. (original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of prohibiting access to said client computer system by prohibiting transmission of said primary password in response to said proposed answer being unequal to said correct answer.

10. (original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of completing said boot process in response to said client computer system receiving said primary password from said server computer system.

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11. (original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of encrypting transmissions between said client computer system and said server computer system utilizing an encryption key pair method.

12. (original) A data processing system for remotely recovering a client computer system's primary password, said primary password being required prior to said client computer system being accessible by a user, said client computer system being coupled to a server computer system utilizing a network, comprising:

prior to said client computer system completing a boot process:

means for prompting a user to enter said primary password; and

means for providing an interrogative password method in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said primary password being recoverable from said server computer system by said client computer system utilizing said interrogative password method prior to said client computer system completing said boot process;

means for providing an interrogative password method, including a question and correct answer pair;

means for recovering said primary password from said server computer system in response to a successful completion of said interrogative method;

means for displaying said question included within said interrogative method utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password;

means for prompting a user to enter an answer to said question, wherein an entry of said correct answer will successfully complete said interrogative method;

means for establishing a unique client identifier;

means for storing said question and said correct answer together with said unique client identifier in said server computer system;

means for transmitting a request for said question utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said request including said unique client identifier; and

means for transmitting said question utilizing said server computer system in response to a receipt of said request.

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Claims 13-17 (canceled)

18. (original) The system according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for transmitting a proposed answer to said question utilizing said client computer system;

means for determining whether said proposed answer is said correct answer utilizing said server computer system.

19. (original) The system according to claim 18, further comprising means for prior to executing said interrogative password method, permitting a user to initially supply said question and correct answer pair.

20. (original) The system according to claim 19, further comprising means for prohibiting access to said client computer system by prohibiting transmission of said primary password in response to said proposed answer being unequal to said correct answer.

21. (original) The system according to claim 20, further comprising means for completing said boot process in response to said client computer system receiving said primary password from said server computer system.

22. (original) The system according to claim 21, further comprising means for encrypting transmissions between said client computer system and said server computer system utilizing an encryption key pair method.

23. (original) A data processing system for remotely recovering a client computer system's primary password, said primary password being required prior to said client computer system being accessible by a user, said client computer system being coupled to a server computer system utilizing a network, comprising:

means prior to said client computer system completing a boot process, for prompting a user to enter said primary password;

a' means prior to said client computer system completing a boot process, for providing an interrogative password method including an question and correct answer pair in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said primary password being recoverable from said server computer system by said client computer system utilizing said interrogative password method prior to said client computer system completing said boot process;

means for recovering said primary password from said server computer system in response to a successful completion of said interrogative method.

means for displaying said question included within said interrogative method utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password;

means for prompting a user to enter an answer to said question, wherein an entry of said correct answer will successfully complete said interrogative method;

means for establishing a unique client identifier;

means for storing said question and said correct answer together with said unique client identifier in said server computer system;

means for transmitting a request for said question utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said request including said unique client identifier;

means for transmitting said question utilizing said server computer system in response to a receipt of said request;

means for transmitting a proposed answer to said question utilizing said client computer system;

means for determining whether said proposed answer is said correct answer utilizing said server computer system;

means for prior to executing said interrogative password method, permitting a user to initially supply said question and correct answer pair;

a' means for prohibiting access to said client computer system by prohibiting transmission of said primary password in response to said proposed answer being unequal to said correct answer;

means for completing said boot process in response to said client computer system receiving said primary password from said server computer system; and

means for encrypting transmissions between said client computer system and said server computer system utilizing an encryption key pair method.

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